

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A power transmitting device for a vehicle, having an engine for generating power to drive said vehicle, a transmission having an input shaft mechanically and coaxially connected to said engine for transmitting power to driving wheels and for changing a rotational speed thereof in accordance with operating conditions, an output shaft arranged substantially parallel with said input shaft to transmit power to a rear side of said vehicle, a toe board for separating an engine compartment of said vehicle from a passenger compartment thereof, and a floor panel connected behind said toe board for forming said passenger compartment, comprising:

a casing provided under said floor panel and directly connected to said engine for containing said input shaft and said output shaft; and

wherein said floor panel is constructed and arranged to form a floor tunnel portion substantially proximate to a middle position of said toe board and which substantially covers said casing; and

a projecting portion longitudinally formed on an upper side of said casing for strengthening an entire structure thereof, and which is downwardly and rearwardly inclined so that during a frontward collision the projecting portion slides rearward and downward by contact with said floor tunnel portion so as to effectively avoid collapse when colliding frontward impact with said toe board and thereby improve passenger safety;

~~wherein a floor tunnel portion is formed on said floor panel and connected to an approximately middle position of said toe board for substantially entirely covering said casing.~~

2. (Original) The power transmitting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the input shaft is disposed in an upper front portion of the casing; and the output shaft is disposed in a low and rear portion of the casing.

3. (Original) The power transmitting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a projecting portion is formed on the upper portion of the casing, the projecting portion projecting upwardly and extending in an approximately longitudinal direction.
4. (Currently Amended) A vehicle having, an engine for generating power to drive said vehicle, a transmission having an input shaft mechanically and coaxially connected to said engine for transmitting power to driving wheels and for changing a rotational speed thereof in accordance with operating conditions, an output shaft provided substantially in parallel with said input shaft to transmit power to a rear side of said vehicle, a toe board for separating an engine compartment of said vehicle from a passenger compartment thereof, and a floor panel connected behind said toe board for forming said passenger compartment, comprising:
 - a floor tunnel portion formed to extend a portion of the floor panel in a longitudinal direction of said vehicle on said floor panel; and
 - a power transmitting device provided on an inside of said a front portion of the said floor tunnel portion, the said power transmitting device have having a casing provided under said floor panel portion and directly connected to said engine for containing said input shaft and said output shaft, and a projecting portion longitudinally formed on an upper side of said casing, and downwardly and rearwardly inclined for strengthening an entire structure thereof so as to effectively avoid collapse when colliding frontward and to secure a safety of a passenger,
wherein the said front portion of the said floor tunnel portion is formed so as to be inclined downwardly and rearwardly corresponding to an inclination of an upper portion of the said power transmitting device, and the said floor tunnel portion is connected to an approximately middle position of said toe board for entirely covering said casing.
5. (Original) The vehicle as claimed in claim 4, wherein the power transmitting device is a transmission.
6. (Original) The vehicle as claimed in claim 4, wherein an auxiliary equipment of a power unit provided adjacent to the power transmitting device under a front end of the floor tunnel portion.
7. (Original) The vehicle as claimed in claim 6, wherein the auxiliary device includes a turbocharger provided behind the power unit.

8. (Original) The vehicle as claimed in claim 6, wherein the auxiliary equipment includes a catalyst for purifying an exhaust gases discharged from the power unit.
9. (Previously Presented) The power transmitting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the projecting portion is constructed and arranged so as to have a rod shape.
10. (Previously Presented) The power transmitting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the projecting portion projects upwardly, and is inclined downwardly and rearwardly.
11. (Previously Presented) The power transmitting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a plurality of projecting portions are longitudinally formed on the casing.
12. (Previously Presented) The power transmitting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein an upper portion of the casing is formed so as to be inclined downwardly and rearwardly from a front end of the casing to a rear end of the casing.
13. (Previously Presented) The vehicle as claimed in claim 4, wherein the projecting portion is constructed and arranged so as to have a rod shape.
14. (Previously Presented) The vehicle as claimed in claim 4, wherein the projecting portion projects upwardly, and is inclined downwardly and rearwardly.
15. (Previously Presented) The vehicle as claimed in claim 4, wherein a plurality of projecting portions are longitudinally formed on the casing.